

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 7, No. 4

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

AUGUST 1996 • FREE

"What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other." Mary Ann Evans (aka George Eliot)

City Sits On Your Civil Rights

Pat Tassoni

I would like to believe them but I can't. Contrary to the discussion on making it illegal to sit on downtown sidewalks, I don't believe the Olympia City Council is uncomfortable with adopting the law at all. They certainly were able to entertain themselves in a jovial manner as they moved forward in restricting citizens' rights.

The No Sitting Ordinance is an obvious siding with business priorities over citizens' rights. Some merchants have complained that people sitting outside their businesses drive customers away. Of course, being in an aware community means that residents who choose to vote with their dollars, choose not to go to businesses that have exhibited anti-homeless, anti-youth and other such sentiments. This explains why business is so bad,

and no ordinance can legislate that away — yet another ordinance only entrenches it more.

Consideration of the No Sitting Ordinance first came up a year and a half ago, raised by concerns of the Downtown Business Community and fed by the suggestions of the Olympia Police Department. It has been kept alive in Committee for over a year waiting the outcome of an appeal process of a model ordinance in Seattle. It has been a pet project of sorts of the council and the OPD and the only serious questions raised about it were voiced by Councilperson Laura Ware, who as a newcomer to the council, is forced to deal with the inherited issue in her new position. She is the only one who is aware that social policies are not equally enforced across class lines.

The City has looked at and/or enacted not only a Sidewalk Ordinance, but a Fortified Wine Ordinance, an

Alley Closure Ordinance, expanding the Skateboarding Ordinance to banning the activity in the downtown, a Youth Dance Ordinance, an Aggressive Panhandling Ordinance, a Cruising Ordinance, and a No Car Camping Ordinance.

These kinds of repressive ordinances do not constructively deal with the social problems our community is faced with. The ordinances aimed at the homeless haven't solved the problem of homelessness, but the council doesn't seem concerned about that. I would like to believe they are; however, their actions speak contrary to their words and their actions have far more lasting effect than their lip service. They have moved the homeless from place to place by first moving them from under the bridge, to out of the parks, to out of the alleys, and now off the sidewalks. By forcing the impoverished to pay fines they hope to ultimately move the home-

less out of Olympia.

Youth, too, have few options in our community. The city's response to this has been to close down the community center and revamp its activities. Another has been to make it illegal for any all ages dance clubs to exist except for those sponsored by a non-profit, like the new Alamo. Skate-

... the only serious questions were raised by Councilperson Laura Ware. She is the only one who is aware that social policies are not equally enforced across class lines.

Smells Like LakeFair

Something Fishy in Street Cleaning

WIP News Service

Four people suffered skin and eye irritation after being misted by a passing City of Olympia street cleaner the night before LakeFair opened. The mist came in through the open alley door of the Eastside Club. Kevin Ranker, an environmental activist, ran after the truck and demanded to know with what it was he was doused. The drivers did not know and had to call

Acetate, Methyl Salicylate, Nonylphenol Polyethylene Glycol Ether, and Sodium Petroleum Sulfonate. Eye contact causes severe irritation seen as tearing, redness, and burning sensation; skin contact may cause irritation seen as itching and redness, discomfort and dermatitis. It may be absorbed through the skin in harmful amounts with effects similar to ingestion, which include nausea. In extreme cases, it can cause unconsciousness, coma, death, asphyxia-

sulfur (which form acid rain.)

After being dispensed by the street cleaner, the chemical has either evaporated into the air or gone down the storm drain, some of which feed directly into Puget Sound. Oderine-10 is not only toxic to marine life, but it is also a volatile organic compound, meaning that it causes air pollution.

A Public Works supervisor assured the individuals that they would be okay because the chemical had been diluted down in the ratio of one pint of Oderine-10 to 2200 gallons of water. He agreed with Ranker that the city should not be using the product and sent the truck back to the city yard.

To keep LakeFair smelling fresh, the city has previously used something called Apple Plum. They used Oderine-10 this time because it was cheaper. Apparently, Oderine-10 is commonly used in cities all over the country. Spot checks by Ranker on subsequent nights confirmed that the street cleaner was using only water for the duration of LakeFair.

According to Ranker, the four individuals seem recovered and no lawsuits are being pursued at this time. Keep your noses sharp and if the city smells too fresh, then it's not good news.

The reason given for using Oderine-10 was that it leaves behind a fresh smell downtown to impress the LakeFair crowd.

their supervisor. It was a chemical compound diluted in water named Oderine-10 that was being used specifically to clean the streets. Olympia street cleaners usually just use water. The reason given for using Oderine-10 was that it leaves behind a fresh smell downtown to impress the LakeFair crowd.

What is Oderine-10? According to the Material Safety Data Sheet it is a combination of Aliphatic Petroleum Distillate, Isobutyl Acetate, Amyl

tion, central nervous system effects. It targets and could aggravate pre-existing lung, kidney, liver, and blood diseases. It is flammable and is classified a carcinogen under California's Proposition 65.

Fire Fighters are required to wear full hazardous material suits when cleaning it up. Ventilation, skin and eye protection should be used while handling it. There is no known neutralizing agent and it breaks down into oxides of carbon, nitrogen and

boarding is illegal here. Yelm built a skate park as a positive solution. There is no cruising in downtown. That hasn't solved cruising or youth boredom — it has just pushed them further away. The council should be grateful to the State Theater. By that business closing, it has furthered the goal of the council to get youth out of downtown.

Despite police assurances, someone sitting or lying on the sidewalk, does not have to be warned each time before receiving a \$50 citation. With regulars who hang out downtown, a police officer need only make note that a regular was warned and then be able to cite them later (hours, weeks, months later) when the officer sees them sitting on the sidewalk. I would like to believe the OPD when they say not a lot of citations will be handed out, but I can't. Police are already acting as if the ordinance were in effect, telling people not to sit on the sidewalk. ♦

Downtown Block Party To Protest The Proposed No Sitting On The Sidewalk Ordinance

Saturday, August 17th
All day fair celebrating our rights to public space.

Activities include music, art, performances, peddling, crafts, samba dancing, readings, and whatever you can contribute on the sidewalks of our fair city.

LETTERS & BRIEFS

Marlboro gives money to non-smoker

Betsy Beekmann

This letter, which included a \$65 check I've already cashed, was sent to me. How fortunate I am that my housemate urgently pleaded with me to open the envelope slapped with Marlboro advertising that I quite quickly tossed to the recycling box without looking at its contents. How fortunate I am that my housemate noticed the "cash prize winner" notice on the outside of the envelope and had tolerance enough to take the time to look inside. How fortunate I am not to have been convincible enough to fulfill their ploy to steer me towards smoking!! I'm not certain where they found my name, but I'd sure like to thank them and let them know how their money was used - far from the purchase of cigarettes. I'd also like to speak with the advertiser who thought this one up...perhaps a \$200 incentive would work a bit better!

CONGRATULATIONS! You are a cash prize-winner in our "Smokers-To-Be" Sweepstakes!

A random drawing of non-smokers in high-stress professions is held monthly at the RJR Headquarters, and you, were selected as the June winner for your region.

A gigantic surge in the growth of our new markets, particularly owing to increased smoking by women and teens, has enabled us to literally "give money away!" (Of course, it is our sincere hope that you will use a portion of this prize money towards the purchase of your first, fun-filled carton of Marlboros!)

Have one on us, and enjoy the mild, soothing flavour packed into each and every Marlboro cigarette.

With warm regards,
Vince Packard

Marlboro Marketing Manager for
Western Washington
Marlboro "Smokers-To-Be" Sweepstakes

PO Box 4130

Schaumburg, IL 60168-4130

Rest In Peace

Anonymous

It was a miserable life. There was no love. There were no movies. There was no travel. There were few friends. The friends that there were, were

creeps. Creeps who liked to drink.

Work, for the short time there was work, was a momentary diversion. Something to do to help supply the important things in life. Booze and cigarettes.

Life consisted of Winston Cigarettes, Bubble Up and Vodka, beer, and cheap wine. More precious than life. Twenty four hours a day. Cheap run-down apartments, derelict old houses. Shabby furnishings. This was life being lived to its least.

This was a wretched life, one that consisted of a single minded non-stop obsession to consume booze and bask in its numbing effects. Everything else took a back seat to this overriding concern. Everything.

Holidays, with the promise of a big feast and a family get together, always degenerated into a drunken stupor. The meal usually going uncooked or ignored. Every occasion always ended up tainted with the smell of booze and its related effects.

The long term use of booze finally worked its magic on the body. Kidney and liver failure. The booze stopped. For six years, life consisted of sitting in front of a TV smoking Winston Cigarettes, waiting for the inevitable. No friends, little family, almost no contact with the outside world. Doctors all the time. The body decimated, bloated, dysfunctional.

When the end came, it came among strangers in a hospital. Strapped to the bed screaming and swearing at all in attendance. Hallucinations from the liver failure were now the order of the day, poisons streaming unchecked into the system. Morphine, to dull the pain of a collapsed spine, led to a coma. Death came within hours. No good-byes. Misery to the end. The doctor applied the final insult by way of the death certificate: cause of death, alcohol related liver failure.

When word spread that death had come, the hyenas scavenged through the belongings, warily eyeing each other to make sure they got their share. They snatched any perceived treasures from the shabby belongings. Even the food was stripped from the cupboards and refrigerator. They wanted to know "where is the money?", but of course there was no money. There never was any money, only anguish.

The next day the body was on display at a funeral home for the dysfunctional family members to view before cremation. They stood over the body reminiscing about how they use to find wine bottles hidden in the

closet when they were young. Fond memories. When one would leave, they would talk about them. Nice people. There were perhaps no other memories to share.

Justice: Do It Nike!

Mike White

We intend to persuade the world's largest shoe-maker to treat their production workers fairly. Since our Labor Day demonstration at Nike Town in Portland, Oregon, an international movement focused on Nike's production workers is gaining strength and numbers.

Here are a few recent developments:

- The June '96 issue of LIFE magazine carried an article with photos describing child labor in Pakistan, where children make 60 cents per day stitching together Nike soccer balls.

- A Canadian human rights organization, Development and Peace, asked to monitor conditions to verify Nike's own "Code of Conduct" at Nike-contracted factories. Nike refused. The group then collected 86,500 signatures on a petition and presented it to Nike.

- On March 16, the New York Times interviewed workers at a Nike factory in Serang, Indonesia who organized to ask for better wages. The workers had been fired. Tongis Situmorang was "locked in a room at the plant and interrogated for seven days by the military, which demanded to know more about his labor activities."

- The United Methodist Church will present an unprecedented shareholder resolution at the September Nike stockholder meeting. The resolution asks for independent monitoring of Nike factories.

In solidarity with other groups, Justice: Do It Nike! is asking Nike, Inc. to:

- Pay workers in Nike-contracted factories a fair wage.
- Allow independent monitoring

CITIZEN RIGHTS

Stop Direct Marketing

Many companies use direct mail and telemarketing to reach consumers. If you do not wish to be solicited, some companies let you opt out of these programs.

To reduce the number of direct mail or telephone solicitations you receive, write to the companies that are contacting you and ask to be removed from their lists. Also, watch for special billing inserts provided by some companies which let you exclude your name from their lists.

To control what information about you is kept, say "no" to telemarketers who want more information than you feel is necessary and to those who refuse to send follow-up explanatory materials.

Under Federal law, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, a telemarketer who calls you cannot continue to call you if you have requested that the calls stop.

Companies with 800 or 900 numbers can use a number identification technology to record your telephone number when you call. Some firms use your number to help retrieve your records faster and improve the quality and speed of handling your call. Be aware when you call that firms may also match your number to your name and address to add to customer lists created for marketing or service purposes.

Contact the Mail Preference Service and the Telephone Preference Service of the Direct Marketing Association (DMA). Your name can be removed from the lists of DMA members who participate in these programs. You will still get some mail and calls, but this will help reduce the volume.

Mail Preference Service

PO Box 9008

Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

Telephone Preference Service

PO Box 9014

Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mission Statement: "Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Chris Borte	Wendy Ortiz
Greg Bye	Hali Panneton
Dave Campbell	Tara Perkins
Tom Freeman	CJ Russo
Greg Hohnholt	Marie Smith
Craig Hymson	Sylvia Smith
Teresa Jennings	Pat Tassoni
Jerome Johnson	Dave Zink
Evelyn Montague	

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Correspondence/articles are always welcome. Articles on disk (text preferred). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

WIP Schedule

Submission deadline:

Friday, Aug 23

On that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH
(218 Fourth Ave) at 6 pm.
Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Aug 27 at 7 pm
Oly Timberland Library

Advertising Info

⇒ **Dave Campbell**
at 352-6132

Inch Rate \$7.50
Business Card .. \$20
Special Non-Profit Rates

WORKS IN PROGRESS: PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507 (360) 705-2726

LETTERS & BRIEFS

of factories, as requested by Development and Peace, and as agreed to by The Gap Clothing in El Salvador.

- Support workers' right to organize for better wages and working conditions and stop allowing military suppression of strikes, as detailed in the New York Times article.

- Cease using child labor, as documented in the June '96 LIFE magazine article by renowned journalist Sydney H. Schanberg.

Don't appreciate NIKE using child slave labor to make soccer balls? Call NIKE at 1-800-344-6453 (that's 1-800-EGG-NIKE), press 3, and then 1 to leave a voicemail expressing your outrage!

Justice: Do It NIKE! PO Box 219231 Portland, OR 97225 (503) 292-8168

Enforce Child Labor Laws

The United States should push for better enforcement of international labor standards and its own laws to eliminate illegal child labor, the AFL-CIO said during a Labor Department hearing on child labor.

Business and industry codes of conduct are important tools to combat exploitative child labor, said Anne Knipper, assistant to the AFL-CIO international affairs director. But even the best voluntary codes "cannot substitute for effective governmental enforcement of international labor standards," she said.

The Labor Department hearing coincided with the launch of a national "FoulBall" campaign aimed at child labor in the Pakistan soccer ball industry. An estimated 11,000 Pakistani children are involved in sewing soccer balls for export to the United States.

"The soccer ball industry must assume the responsibility of assuring for the sake of exploited children as well as American consumers that soccer balls are not made illegally by young children," said Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich.

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'Fair Wage' for Portland

The Portland City Council unanimously approved a proposal last month requiring contractors doing work for the city to pay their employees a minimum hourly wage of \$6.75 per hour.

The ordinance calls for an increase in the "fair wage" rate to \$7 per hour on July 1, 1997. It also encourages all contractors to provide medical insurance for their employees. Oregon's current minimum wage is \$4.75 per hour.

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Arlo Guthrie in Olympia

Arlo Guthrie will be performing on Friday, August 30 at 8pm at the Washington Center for Performing Arts. Opening act will be acoustic folk duo Rebel Voices, singing songs of the labor movement. The performance is a benefit for three local grassroots organizations: Olympia Political/Cultural Center -Liberation Cafe, Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects, and Works In Progress.

Arlo, son of the legendary Depression-era balladeer Woody Guthrie,

began his musical career in 1967 with the release of the epic *Alice's Restaurant*. *Alice's Restaurant* tells the story of how elicit garbage dumping on Thanksgiving Day marked Arlo as a felony litterer and helped him to escape the draft. Through the late 60s and early 70s, the lines "You can get anything you want/at Alice's Restaurant" came to symbolize draft resistance during the Vietnam War.

For Arlo's musical career, *Alice's Restaurant* was just the beginning. He went on to record 17 albums, and started his own record label in the mid-80s. In addition to his wide-ranging musical accomplishments, Arlo's other endeavors have kept him busy. In 1992, Arlo purchased the Old Trinity Church in Housatonic, MA, where he wrote *Alice's Restaurant*. The church has been transformed into the Guthrie Center, a non-profit foundation that provides support for children recovering from abuse and services for the homeless and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Tickets for the concert are available for \$15 at the Washington Center box office (753-8586). Tickets are also available at Rainy Day Records, Positively Fourth Street, the Bookmark, and the Antique Sandwich Company in Tacoma.

A "Thank You" for helping fight for my life

This is a letter to a man who helped me when I was a homeless run away 9 years ago. I do not know where he is now, and may never be able to find him again. I send this out to him and others like him.

Dear Sam,

It is me J. D., remember that tripped out teenager you picked up one Friday night. Remember me, the pretty whore. The one you thought was too thin to be outside all night, and too young to die.

I don't know why you helped me, but you did. I guess I want to say thanks. I didn't care if I died (it would have been a relief really), but you cared.

Thanks for picking me up, and taking me back to your apartment. You fed me dinner rather than wanting something from me. I didn't get it at first. I couldn't figure out if you were gay, or some weird psycho killer who wanted to fatten me up first. But you were just a man who didn't want to stand by while another young woman went down. Not another one you said, not like your daughter you whispered. I found a picture of her one day while you were at work. She was beautiful. I am sorry they killed her. I know you loved her even though you said you didn't know how to show it back then.

Thanks for giving me a place to sleep. One half of your bed where you put a barrier down the middle so I would stop trying to "do my job." I just didn't get it that you weren't wanting me to pay you back.

Thanks for trying to help me deal with my emotional shit that came up. It was bigger than we both knew how to deal with. Thanks most of all for taking me back after you saw what the social services was going to do to me. It was the best moment of my life when you told that bitch to fuck

off. Of course you said it nicer than that, but that is what you meant.

I'm sorry I stole your money for the abortion. And I'm also really sorry you had to come home to all that blood on your floor. When you were carrying me to the hospital I didn't know if I was going to die or not, but I thought if I did, at least you would be holding me. I had never had anyone fight for me. I had always fought for myself, and quite honestly I was too exhausted to keep going. If we ever see each other again, I'll tell you what it is like to clinically die, and come back. The coming back part is the special secret.

I know you did all you could to stop them from sending me back. We both knew the police system wasn't going to let a poor black man take custody of a white girl. No, they had to send me back to mommy & daddy, my legal owners. My "parents" didn't even wait for me to heal before they again sold me out for \$500 a night. I didn't run away across the country and live on the streets because they made me eat my brussels sprouts. I would rather have died of my own choice than let them sell out the last of me.

I just wanted you know it was worth it, and I lived. As a matter of fact, I live pretty well now. I got completely away from them six years ago. Now there is a college degree on my wall, and plans for a Masters. I have enough to eat, plenty in fact. I'd love to invite you over for dinner if I knew where to find you. I pay my own way with honest money. I am safe. I live in a good house with all women. So it was worth it. I was worth it.

With more thanks than I can express,
J.D. (Your second daughter)

A Wise Man Once Said

by Aaron C. Ramsey

This is the most confusing time, in my life, it makes me want to whine. I wish it would all go away, but I know it is here to stay. A wise man once said, before he was dead, the smartest man in the world, is one that admits he knows nothing. I know that I love my girl, and this is the life I chose to lead, but she decided to leave my world, and my heart started to bleed. What I now know... as a wise man once said. We all make choices, from the voices, we hear in our head.

Calling for WIP WORKERS

If you don't see your issue being covered here, that's because you didn't write about it!

"We have room for one more"

One more writer, one more graphic artist, one more idea, advertisement, donation, subscription, one more ounce of energy, and, of course, one more person to catch a typo.

(Call 705-2726 for more information)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Out! Olympia

PFLAG's TV Series on TCTV
"Homophobia In The Workplace"
Friday, August 2nd at 5pm
Sunday, August 4th at 10:30am

Hemp Education Day

Monday, August 5th

Capitol Dome Front Steps

Mandatory attendance by everyone who knows that the Marijuana/Hemp Laws are scientifically, spiritually, legally and morally wrong. The US Congress was lied to and tricked into making Marijuana/Hemp illegal in 1937; the Marijuana Prohibition continues to this day. Millions of our people have been persecuted and unjustly sent to prison for exercising their Religious Beliefs and Creed.

PFLAG Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 11 from 2 - 4 pm
Yauger Park Shelter in west Olympia
Call 866-0511 for more information.

Video: Susan B. Anthony: Rebel for the Cause

Thursday, August 15th 7:30pm
New Freeway Hall
5018 Rainier Ave., Seattle
\$6 donation

Celebrating Anthony's courageous struggles as a feminist and anti-slavery crusader. Her trial for trying to vote in 1872 stirred the nation to look at women's inequality under the law. Hosted by Radical Women. Call 722-6057.

Lewis County AIDS Task Force Benefit

August 17th, 2pm-2am

\$10 suggested donation

Matrix Coffeehouse, Center for Music, Art, Cultural Exchange, and really good coffee, 434 NW Prindle, Chehalis. (360) 740-0492
Featuring arts & crafts, activities, games, a barbecue and lots of great music: Bull Sweet, The Flow, Neva Reese, Grampa Olaf's Polka Party, 71 Nits, Fran Narranca, Migual Olivas, Matrix Coffeehouse Band, LIVE 95 Remote.

Women's Rights Day Festival

Sunday, August 25 2pm

221 35th Ave E., Seattle

Celebrate the anniversary of US women winning the vote at a garden party featuring poetry, song, prose, and an International BBQ Buffet.

Hosted by Radical Women. Call 722-6057.

Friday Nights at Liberation Cafe

116 4th Ave - Top Floor of Bulldog News
Come to the regular meetings on Wednesdays at 7pm at Liberation Cafe.

Events Start at 7:30pm

- August 2nd - Presentation and Discussion of Detroit News Strike, Gannett, and what to do about the Olympian with Clint Burelson of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.
- August 9th - Presentation and Discussion on AIDS by Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects.
- August 16th - Report on the Gathering in Chiapas Against Neo-Liberalism with Hilaria Cruz of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Mexico.
- August 23rd - Report on Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) Reunion and the 60s movement with Peter Bohmer, social justice activist.

Along the Color Line

Why The Churches Burn

Dr. Manning Marable

Every year, it seems like there's a national event involving black people which allows virtually all white Americans to "prove" they aren't racist. During the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings, white reactionaries in Congress took great joy in the public defense of a black man, condemning liberals for committing a "high-tech lynching." In the last presidential election, white Republicans and Democrats alike deplored the racial uprising in Los Angeles, rarely examining the deeper reasons for the black community's rage. Last year, when OJ Simpson was acquitted by a predominantly black jury, or when a million African-American men marched on Washington DC, nearly the entire white establishment accused black folks with "reverse racism."

Now in the election year, we have an issue which once again allows prominent and powerful whites to be sanctimonious on race: the epidemic of racist firebombings against African-American churches.

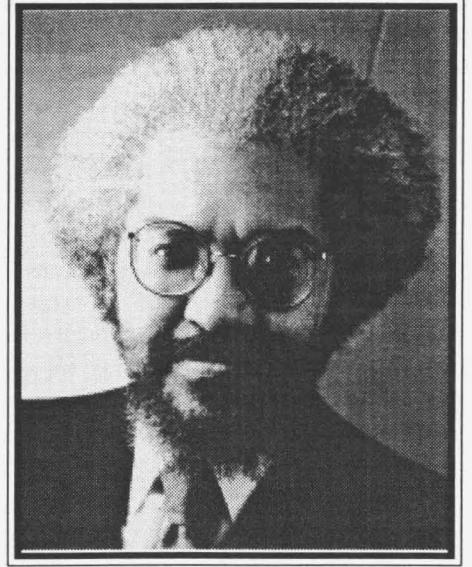
In the last six years, there have been 216 fires and desecrations in churches throughout the US. Half of these burnings have taken place since January, 1995, and nearly three-fourths of those have been African-American churches in the South. For

months, few outside the black community listened or cared about this escalating crisis of vigilantism. Finally, as the pace of burnings increased, officials used the opportunity to take a public stand against intolerance and bigotry.

Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole attempted to win a few black votes by calling upon the Justice Department and police agencies to identify "the cowards responsible for these vicious acts of hate." Republican Senator Lauch Faircloth of North Carolina cosponsored a bill with liberal Democrat Ted Kennedy, which would permit the Department of Housing and Urban Development to

what it means to be an American...I think this is a place where nearly 100 percent of Americans are in accord." Similar expressions of outrage were made by conservative Republican Governor George Allen of Virginia. "Thirty and 40 years ago, people were making excuses for this behavior," Allen declared. "Now everyone, 100 percent of people who are speaking out, are condemning this."

But the most astute political gesture was made by Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition. Meeting with African-American ministers in Atlanta, Reed pledged to raise \$1 million to help rebuild the churches. This was part of a strategy of "racial reconciliation." As Reed admitted: "I would not deny that there was a time in our nation's history when the white evangelical church was not only on the sidelines, but on the wrong side of the most central struggle for social



of color? Where is Bob Dole on the issue of affirmative action? Where is the Republican Congress, on the importance of job programs and social services for the urban poor? Where is the Christian Coalition on the issue of majority-minority legislative districts, and the defense of the Voting Rights Act? Ralph Reed apologizes for the past, but remains silent about the present. Racism is a real and powerful force in American politics and society, both yesterday and today.

The "conspiracy" Clinton refuses to recognize is the convergence of high unemployment, budget cuts, the assault on affirmative action, minority economic set-asides and majority black legislative districts, and demonization of both welfare mothers and young black men. If a political, social and economic environment of hatred is constructed by deliberate policy decisions, we should not be surprised that this hatred manifests itself in the burning of our houses of worship. We cannot end the burnings of our churches unless we uproot the cause of the violence: the burden of inequality and oppression of black America. What's needed are not more pious and pompous polemics denouncing bigotry, but more decisive action to create a just and more democratic society.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 280 publications throughout the US and internationally. ♦

... an issue which again allows prominent and powerful whites to be sanctimonious on race: the epidemic of racist firebombings against African-American churches.

guarantee private loans to repair and rebuild African-American churches.

President Clinton also finally denounced the burnings, and established a joint task force of the Departments of Treasury and Justice, which involved more than 200 investigators. Clinton rejected the argument that the church burnings were part of a "conspiracy", but also declared that the burnings "tear at the very heart of

justice in this century. I think that was wrong; I think we paid a price for that."

Please excuse me, but I think it's time for a reality check. Perhaps politicians and leaders of the Christian Coalition mean what they say. Maybe there's finally a faint connection between rhetoric and reality on race.

But would someone please answer these two questions for me? First, if 100 percent of all Americans oppose this racist terrorism, then *who is burning the churches?* As columnist Bob Herbert astutely observed, this is certainly not a case of "spontaneous combustion." "The fuel for these fires can be traced to a carefully crafted environment of bigotry and hatred that was developed over the past quarter-century."

Second, if racial oppression is the context for these burnings and desecrations, then who or what is responsible for creating this climate of prejudice, the fear and loathing of African-Americans and other people

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Salad & Sandwich Bar**

Open 11:00 - 7:00 Daily



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The Olympia Food Co-op

921 N Rogers, 754-7666

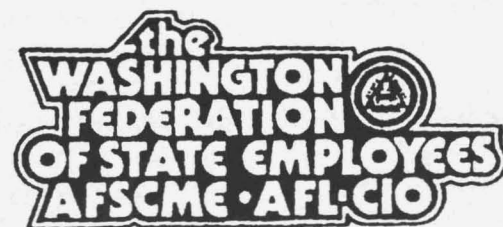
Olympia Food Co-op East

3111 Pacific, 956-3870

Open every day! 9 AM to 8 PM

"The strongest bulwark of authority is uniformity; the least divergence from it is the greatest crime."

Emma Goldman



Make your impact on the World!

**Washington Federation of State Employees
AFSCME • AFL-CIO
PO Box 105 Olympia, WA 98507 Phone 943-1624**

Inside the Comfort Zone

Race and Progressives

Jerome Johnson

One of the most interesting things about being the local Rainbow Coordinator is that one does a lot of public speaking. For example, just the other day I was invited to address a private civic group. I was asked to discuss one of my favorite topics, the issue of race and racism in the United States. I was looking forward to this one because the group is diverse, and rather progressive. "Preaching to the choir" isn't as boring as one might think, because if you think about a choir, you'll realize that even though it sings the same music, you still have a range of voices. I think that's why meetings of progressives are always so lively, as opposed to meetings of Republicans and other staid folks.

For about a week last year, following the Simpson trial, we began a national conversation about race and racism. As I wrote then it was wonderfully uncomfortable. It was wonderful because without a national discussion, a national consensus, we won't resolve the issue, and we really haven't talked about it in at least twenty years. It was uncomfortable because most white people are still in denial about their racism, and don't like being confronted by it because they don't like facing the need to do something about it. Doing something would mean realizing that everything isn't OK, and that fixing racism means the end of skin privileges which give them that edge that helps them get by while people of color struggle to maintain.

Yet, after the week following the trial, the renewed conversation

stopped. I think it stopped because blacks and other people of color said with passion and verve how they feel, described their experiences, spoke from their hearts and minds and souls. Some white people listened, responded, listened, responded. But most of them were shocked by the in-

attitude seemed to be that if we just don't talk about it, racism will fix itself, especially given the history of the '60s and '70s.

To their credit, my progressive friends at this meeting didn't back away or bury their heads in the sands of denial. We had a robust yet respect-

If Martin Luther King had stayed reasonable, I wouldn't be alive today. If Malcolm X hadn't gotten in people's faces, my voice would not be heard.

tensity of feeling in the black community. Instead of facing it and dealing with it, they panicked and retreated behind walls of denial and anger. The same people who claim they aren't racist whined that black people are too dumb to understand DNA and scientific evidence. Incidents of racism were rejected as individual occurrences, despite common denominators. Many white people even had the nerve to scream about affirmative action, even though the principal beneficiaries of affirmative action are white women and Vietnam-era veterans. As white people went further into denial they backed away from the discussion, until it ended. Their

ful discussion. With the best of intentions they said, "Be more reasonable, wait a little longer. Things are better now, aren't they? Getting in people's faces, marching to the Capitol and rallying in the park doesn't work any more. It just makes people mad and entrenches them deeper."

Well, I said, I'm tired of being reasonable and I'm sure as hell tired of waiting. I've been waiting for more than 130 years, since the end of slavery, and it's past time for this to stop. Getting in people's faces may not change minds, but it makes minds think. I know from experience that marching to Capitols changes laws, and attitudes, for the better. Rallying

in the park puts people on notice that we're mad as Hell, and we ain't gonna take it no mo'. Don't ask me to sing "We Shall Overcome" -- I'm too busy.

They shook their heads. "Are you sure?" they asked. "Well," I said, "I'm sure of one thing. If we stay quiet and reasonable things will still be 'OK' -- even though we know it isn't. If Martin Luther King had stayed reasonable, I wouldn't be alive today. If Malcolm X hadn't gotten in people's faces, my voice would not be heard. If we hadn't marched to the Capitol, the heinous Initiatives 608 and 610 would be law. Rallying in the park has sent skinheads and other violent hate-mongers a message: Get Out Of Our Communities."

"But what can we do?" they asked.

"Continue to vote," I said, "with your ballot and your dollars. Write to TV studios, producers and advertisers and say what you like and don't like. Teach the children. Have a quiet word at the gas pump, the grocery line and the laundromat. And keep challenging people like me, so that we stay sharp." In Washington DC, Bob Dole whines about being "set up" after refusing to address the NAACP.

In Fayetteville, NC, near Fort Bragg, the Army investigates hate crimes against soldiers of the 7th Special Forces Group. Swastikas were painted on the barracks doors of black enlisted personnel.

And in Olympia, a community extends its condolences to Governor Lowry, and thanks him for taking a strong stand against bigotry, hatred and terrorism. ♦



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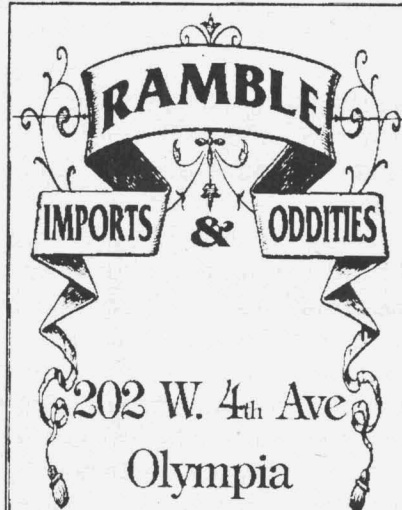
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Notes From the South

Political and Economic Struggles Remain the Same

Paul Ortiz

This is the initial installment of what I hope will be a semi-regular column on southern politics and culture. This is essentially an introductory essay that provides an historical overview of the post-Civil War South.

"Because the American South has been the most repressive region in the country," Howard Zinn once stated, "it has also contained the nation's most courageous social activists." Indeed, during the "turbulent thirties" southern textile workers waged the country's greatest general strike. The Civil Rights Movement, which in turn helped spawn the student and women's liberation movements of the 1960s, was also born in the South. Earlier, during America's apocalyptic decade, the 1890s, the seeds of interracial cooperation were sown in the shape of southern populism and the Colored Farmer's Alliance.

The South has long been viewed by northern chauvinists as a "backward region." Some viewed the region as a kind of colonial dependency of the North. From this perspective, northern capitalists—railroad, textile, and steel bosses for instance—invested enormous sums of money into the cash-starved region after the Civil War in return for low wages and the repression of militant labor and civil rights struggles. Ironically, northern capitalists were usually able to escape the scrutiny of progressive journalists (muckrakers) who, from time to time, commented on the brutalities of the South such as convict labor, the chain gang, and lynching.

Closer scrutiny however, reveals the fact that northern investors (and their European counterparts) were eager to extract minerals and build empires in rail, steel and corporate farming. They saw convict labor and debt peonage as a logical solution to labor mobility and militancy. In the late 19th century South, convicts, primarily African-American and some poor whites, graded railroads, mined coal, and harvested turpentine under brutal working conditions.

These workers, literally toiling for "slave wages," provided enormous profits for northern investors and southern entrepreneurs. Corporations that benefitted from convict labor and/or debt peonage include U.S. Steel, U.S. Sugar, and the Georgia Iron and Coal Company. Today, some

progressives still hold fast to the idea that unfettered "economic modernization" is the great answer to inequality. In the South however, "modernization," was accomplished with slave labor. Alex Lichtenstein, in his path-breaking new study on the Georgia penal system, *Twice the Work of Free Labor* (Verso) argues that "far from representing a lag in southern modernity, convict labor was a central component in the region's modernization."

Yet the South, I believe, *does* have a distinctive history. An important component of this "southern exceptionalism" is the fact that social movements for justice in the South suffered more catastrophic failures between the end of Reconstruction (1877) and the New Deal than almost any other region in the country. It wasn't for lack of trying then that African-Americans and other working people were not able to transform southern power relations before the

early 1900s. Chief among these was the "reform" of the prison system. Southern progressives ushered in the state-controlled chain-gang as an answer to the corrupt private-enterprise system of convict labor. The "good roads movement" in the South was driven by state-run convict labor road crews.

A perpetually weak labor movement as well as the newly-formed NAACP pointed out that the chain-gang was a dubious "reform" at best. Imprisoned African-Americans and poor whites continued to suffer brutalities (whipping medical experimentation, murder) in the new system.

Today, the chain gang has reappeared in many southern states—again, as a so-called reform measure. Again, it impacts African-American males in a disproportionate manner due to a profoundly racist (in)justice system. Again, the South is seen as a model of corporate development for the rest of the nation. The Raleigh-

The struggles of the New South bear a striking resemblance to those of earlier years. In Quincy, Florida (Which I profiled in an earlier WIP article) Mexican and El Salvadoran farm workers are now fighting Quincy Farms, a subsidiary of a Pennsylvania-owned corporation, Sylvan Foods, for union recognition. In March, ninety workers were fired for attempting to publicize the dangerous working conditions they say they toil under at the mushroom farm. "I wish for the union (United Farm Workers) to give us a contract so we can have better benefits," states Stella Silva, one of the fired workers. "I'm thinking about my children, for them to have a better future." At a union rally, Father Rick Castillo, an area priest who ministers to many of the mushroom workers, told the workers that "You have made a profit for the company, and now you are asking to make a profit for yourselves and your families. You have a right to be here. I ask Quincy Farms to make things right for you."

So far, the company's response has wavered between stony silence and denial. According to Mireya Navarro, "Quincy Farms officials say the labor dispute is the work of 'a few outside agitators.'" WIP readers will immediately notice a striking similarity with the Chateau Ste. Michelle struggle here in Washington state. Like that 8-year battle, Florida farm workers will need our support as *companeros* and consumers to put pressure on the company to negotiate with the employees and institute decent working conditions. WIP readers can help by writing Dennis Zensen, Chairman of Sylvan Foods, 828 S. Pike Rd., Sarver, PA 16055 and Richard Lazzarini, President of Quincy Farms, Rt. 4, Box 245/Highway 65 in Quincy, FL 32350. Urge these men to recognize the union and negotiate a fair contract with the workers.

Next on Notes from the South: A profile of a former Mississippi sharecropper who fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. An update on the fight against black church burnings as well as the latest news on the Quincy struggle. ♦

"Quincy Farms officials say the labor dispute is the work of 'a few outside agitators.'" WIP readers will immediately notice a striking similarity with the Chateau Ste. Michelle struggle..."

1950s.

Two major factors inhibited the potential of social movements. Jim Crow racism was a catastrophe for black people. Disenfranchisement and segregation meant the destruction of citizenship rights for a major portion of the region's most progressive people. One great irony was that so-called "Negro disenfranchisement" also stripped many poor southern whites of the ballot. With some notable exceptions (populism during its most promising moments) working-class whites (rural and urban) were complicit in the oppression of African-Americans as well as Mexican migrant workers who began toiling in the Mississippi Delta in the late 1920s.

The domination of the new corporate elites as well as the authority of rural plantation bosses contributed to the unique character of southern progressivism. Lacking the semblance of an organized working-class movement, the progressive forces in the region's politics began to push for a limited kind of social change in the

Durham, North Carolina corridor supposedly contains the highest concentration of Ph.D.'s in the country. The Olympics is being held in Atlanta (pushing out many low-income residents from the core districts and speeding gentrification and racial redlining.) Key West, Florida, whose railroad was originally built by debt peons, remains a resort of choice for many.

Labor Day Celebration

The Evergreen State College Labor Center, the Thurston Lewis County Labor Council and the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443 Diversity Committee sponsor the 1996 Labor Day Celebration at Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia. This annual tradition brings together the working people in our community for a day of fun, education and celebration.

Because the theme for this year is Celebrating Our Diverse Labor Community the program will highlight a rich variety of perspectives and expressions, ranging from things like folk dance and martial art demonstrations to puppetry and calligraphy workshops.

Festivities begin at noon and go until 7 PM. There will be multicultural music and dance performances, children's activities, the-

ater and other entertainment. Winners of the Labor Day speech contest, union representatives, community organizers and social justice activists will speak throughout the day. More than 25 unions and community groups will have information booths and displays to share their work in creative and interactive ways.

Food will be sold by vendors and/or nonprofit organizations specializing in different ethnic cuisines.

Mark your calendars now - Labor Day this year falls on Monday, September 2.

Come to downtown Olympia and celebrate the strength and diversity of working people in our community.

For more information or to participate with a booth call Kathy Doiron at TESC Labor Center: 866-6000 x 6527.

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From the Inside Out Getting Tough on Education

Dan Pens

On September 13, 1994 Congress and President Clinton fired the opening round in a war to dumb-down America's prisoners. On that day Clinton signed the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill. One of the provisions enacted into law was a change in the federal Pell Grant Program, inserting language specifically excluding prisoners from eligibility.

Much attention was given to the Pell Grant issue in the debate leading up to passage of the Crime Bill. Junk-food journalism TV shows such as ABC's *Prime Time* and NBC's *Dateline* hyped the "shocking" revelation that criminals were milking the taxpayers for Pell Grants while needy recipients in the community presumably did without. But, as usual, there was another side to the story obscured by the media hype and political posturing.

Media portrayals insinuated that prisoners were taking advantage of an obscure loophole because of an "oversight" in the original Pell Grant bill that failed to specifically exclude them. The 1965 bill stated that no qualifying low-income persons would be excluded. Prisoners were specifically mentioned in the bill and were intended to be included in the grant program.

According to the US Department of Education, \$6.3 billion was allocated for Pell Grants in 1993. Of that total \$35 million (less than six tenths of one percent) was allocated for prisoners. Most of that amount, however, was not in the form of payments to individual prisoners, but of payments to state programs designed to provide educational services to their prison inmates. Many of those state-

run educational programs were terminated or drastically reduced as a result of losing Pell money.

Of the various "get tough" attacks on prisoners and the poor, none could be more wrong-headed than the intentional dumbing-down of prisoners. Study after study has shown a direct correlation between prison education and lowered recidivism. The Virginia Department of Correctional Education released the results of one such study in June 1995. In that study, the

oners who had earned two-year college degrees, a 5.6 rate for those who earned bachelor's degrees, and a zero recidivism rate for (the admittedly small number of) prisoners who earned master's degrees.

As I said, the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill was only the opening shot. The issue of prisoner education was thereafter squarely in the middle of the "get tough" battlefield. State citizens began to inquire about education in Washington's prisons. The local me-

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records of 3,000 prisoners released between 1979 and 1994 were randomly selected. Recidivism rates were compared among three groups: Prisoners who participated in no education programs, participants who did not complete, and prisoners who completed education programs. The non-participants recidivated at the rate of 49 percent. Non-completers recidivated at 38 percent. Completing participants recidivated at 20 percent.

The Virginia study didn't distinguish, however, between prisoners who completed vocational or high-school classes and those who earned college degrees. Another study, this one conducted by Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 1994, reveals that the more education prisoners have the less likely they are to return to prison. The Texas study reported a 13.7 percent recidivism rate for pris-

ons who had earned two-year college degrees, a 5.6 rate for those who earned bachelor's degrees, and a zero recidivism rate for (the admittedly small number of) prisoners who earned master's degrees. As I said, the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill was only the opening shot. The issue of prisoner education was thereafter squarely in the middle of the "get tough" battlefield. State citizens began to inquire about education in Washington's prisons. The local me-

dia smelled blood and soon entered the fray. It wasn't too long before angry citizens appeared on local TV and radio talk shows demanding to know why taxpayers were "giving prisoners a free college education." State lawmakers, for the most part, are aware of the undeniable public policy value of prison education. But when faced with the public outcry (or with the opportunity to use the misguided public indignation to their political advantage), state legislators didn't waste time gutting education programs in Washington's prisons.

In 1995, the Washington State legislature passed House Bill 2010, which, among other things, eviscerated college-level prison education. The bill mandates that the Department of Corrections (DOC) recover a portion of tuition costs from prisoners who participate in second or subsequent vocational education programs; their first vocational training program is still free. Additionally, prisoners "shall pay all costs and tuition for participation in any postsecondary academic degree program" which is not pre-approved by the DOC as directly related to a prison work program, and "shall pay all costs and tuition" for participation in any second or subsequent postsecondary program.

In February, 1996, DOC Division of Prisons Director Tom Rolfs issued a preliminary policy statement to all state prisoners stating, "There is only so much money available for [education/vocation] programs. Our focus will be on Adult Basic Education

services and vocational preparation directly related to the work programs available to offenders in institutions. In order to provide services/programs beyond that level, offenders must be prepared to participate in their cost. Offenders will not be allowed to incur a debt for fee-based educational training programs."

Between February and May, the DOC grappled with how to implement fee-based postsecondary education. For whatever reasons — probably because they realized that not enough prisoners have the money to pay tuition, and administering such a program would create logistical headaches — the DOC decided to eliminate postsecondary education altogether.

This June, I graduated with an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree from the Twin Rivers Corrections Center branch campus of Edmonds Community College. I was among the last graduating college-level class. Next year there will be no postsecondary college graduates in Washington's prisons.

By eliminating college academic degrees, the DOC will arguably save money in the short term. But when you consider recidivism rates and the \$25,000 per-prisoner annual imprisonment cost, who is to say how much taxpayers will pay to re-imprison uneducated recidivists in the years to come?

Recently another education program fell victim in the war to dumb-down prisoners, and this program was probably the most cost-effective educational training program ever instituted in Washington's prison system. A small number of prisoners in the Washington State Reformatory (WSR) in 1994 were allowed to participate in a unique pilot project which allowed them to purchase desktop computers with their own funds for use in their cells. Stringent prerequisites had to be met before a prisoner's participation in the pilot project was approved. The participants were able to purchase only a limited number of software applications: one word processor, one database program, one spreadsheet program, an operating system and Windows. No communications software, networking, e-mail, or modems were allowed, nor were computer games or any other software allowed. Prisoners were not permitted to have floppy disks, therefore no data could be mailed in or out of the prison on disk.

I was one of the 24 prisoners approved to participate in that computer pilot project. I purchased a 486 computer with my own money. For a year and a half, I spent countless hours learning how to write application in dBase, design spreadsheets and form letters, perform mail merges, etc. The opportunity to develop and practice those skills in my cell propelled my computer capabilities far beyond what I could have achieved with the very limited classroom computer access I had.

Regrettably, I was transferred to another prison in 1995 and was forced to send my computer home. The pilot project existed only in the prison I was leaving. Once the pilot project was completed, however, it was slated to be expanded to other state prisons. This turned out not to be the case.

In June of this year, WSR prisoner

(Continued next page)

Computers For Everybody

by Mikel Pelly

Washington State Department of Corrections (DoC) recently started a new policy of removing prisoners computers from their cells. This new tactic makes it all the more apparent the prevalence of cruelty that the DoC acts towards Washington's incarcerated. Sure if the prisoner is a white collar felon, or a person with organized crime connections, and definitely a Kevin Mitnick (cyber hacker) type prisoner, extra steps probably should be taken. No telephones for starters.

But in these cyber times we're living in, the idea of cutting this resource off is totally asinine and mean-spirited. No! I don't think that this a good policy. The DoC needs to be nurturing corrections and rehabilitation, and not taking these skills and experiences away. The computer is a job skill and to deprive this from someone that could be using it on rehabilitating themselves is crazy. Sure there are other computers available in the jail, but ideas and inspiration or just quiet time so one can concentrate needs to be available at any hour. Just working on developing the rhythm of typing takes many hours of time. This I know — it is something I've been working on for years. If security is a problem, then do strip searches of disks and hard drives, just leave the creative ideas intact. This stinks to me of a bad answer to a problem with an other wise workable solution. Just one more way of doing an unnecessary and cruel tactic intended to make some one else's life as miserable as possible. The DoC ought to get back in touch with what its title implies and start working on corrections and improvements for Washington's prisoners and thus in turn its residents as a whole because these draconian measures won't cut it.

Express your concern about the termination of this program and demand to know why it was eliminated given its proven track record at reducing recidivism, giving prisoners job skills, not costing the taxpayers money and posing no threat to prison security.

Sen. Jim Hargrove
Chairman, Corrections Committee
556 Ocean Beach Rd.
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(360) 532-4747

Sen. Jeanne Kohl
Corrections Committee
301 W. Kinnear Place
Seattle, WA 98119
(206) 285-1869

Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson
Corrections Committee
316 John L. O'Brien Bldg
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(206) 283-6388

Rep. Frank Chopp
4209 Sunnyside Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 632-6982

Governor Mike Lowry
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002
(360) 753-6780

Chase Riveland
Secretary of Corrections
PO Box 41100
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 753-2500

(Education, continued)

computer owners were informed that they had until July 15th to ship their computers out of the prison. The program was being terminated and would not be expanded to other Washington prisons.

In a memo to the prisoner computer owners, WSR Superintendent Ken DuCharme said that there were "insufficient staff to properly monitor prisoners' hard drives." This is a specious argument at best. He admitted that on occasions when prisoners' hard drives had been examined, nothing illegal had ever been found. I think he said it better when he admitted that he was simply "tired of defending this program" from its detractors — those who think prisoners are being "coddled" by allowing them to own computers.

There is no doubt that educated prisoners — especially those with marketable computer skills — are more employable upon their release. In their rush to pander to the popular "get tough" mentality, however, state politicians and prison officials have proven too willing to dumb-down prisoners — even when they know that it's simply not a smart thing to do.

That's all for this month. Until next time, greetings from the gulag.

Dan Pens is co-editor of Prison Legal News. A free sample of PLN is available upon request by writing to:

Dan Pens #279308

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Hurray for the Red, White, and Blue

Ron Jacobs

Over the Fourth of July weekend, I watched a lot of baseball on TV. This was a week or so after 19 US soldiers died in Saudi Arabia, victims of a massive bomb. While watching the ball games, it seemed like in between each inning the network broadcast a particularly obnoxious ad for Shell oil. This advertisement had people humming "Stars and Stripes Forever"

where else) defending our freedom. They are just the latest pawns in the war that defines our century — the war for maximum profit — usually that of the oil companies and their baker buddies. The victims of this war are many and include, among others, thousands of human beings around the world, not to mention peace and freedom. Here at home we add to the oil companies maximum profits not only at the gas pump but whenever we give up another free-

tify their interests with those of big oil and its ilk. An excellent example is the recent unanimous vote in Congress which attempts to impose sanctions on any country doing business with Iran or Libya. No matter what one thinks of these countries' current governments, this action can only intensify their resolve to maintain their current practices. Additionally, a move like this by the United States increases rivalries between this country and the other contestants in the imperial contest for world control. The rest of the capitalist world does not appreciate US attempts to limit their trading options, especially when the options that remain should they accept the terms of the proposed sanctions would limit their trading to options the United States controls. It is scenarios like these which lead to world wars.

Until ordinary folks like you and I refuse to play the game currently being run on us, our nation's agenda will be identical to that of Mobil, Exxon, Citibank, and the rest.

and waving little American flags — flags given out free by Shell with each fill-up. The irony of this nationalistic shill was quite obviously lost on those who participated and, most likely, most of those who saw the commercials.

Those soldiers, like many other humans before them, died for US corporate profit. Plain and simple. Despite the words of their commanders, whether that was the person in charge in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, of the guy in the White House. The American military is not in Saudi Arabia (or any-

dom in the name of fighting terrorism. We pay with a system maintained by those companies and their cohorts on Wall Street and in the war industry that forsakes our children's education and health in the name of national defense. It is a national defense which does not defend us but keeps us permanently close to war while depleting our resources.

No matter who's running the show, it doesn't matter. Both political parties are only too willing to do whatever the profiteers ask. They, like many Americans, have come to iden-

Until ordinary folks like you and I refuse to play the game currently being run on us, our nation's agenda will be identical to that of Mobil, Exxon, Citibank, and the rest. Soldiers whose only purpose (if any) should be defending the borders from attack (not immigrants) will continue to find themselves defending regimes whose cash and resources are considered essential to corporate America, and ads identifying US "independence" with the oil companies will ring only too true. ♦

Ralph Nader: An Initiative of "Unity and Diversity"

Ralph Nader

This statement by Ralph Nader was faxed to the California State Convention of the Green Party of California for June 30, 1996 as he was officially named as the Presidential candidate by 96% of the delegates present.

Welcome to the most self-reliant political movement in California. Welcome to a progressive initiative that goes to the central contention of public politics — the concentration of power and wealth in a few hands and what should be done about what Thomas Jefferson called "the excesses of the monied interests."

Society rots from the top down and it is reconstructed from the bottom up. The takeover of our political government at the national and state lev-

els by the corporate powers is dismantling our democracy, shutting out citizens and citizen groups from their own government — executive, legislative, and judicial.

When democracy is downsized, so too will people's standard of living be downsized, along with their rights, remedies, opportunities and

progressive politics — banding together in the various roles that citizens need to assume for a prosperous political economy, a benign environment and a just society for all.

Demanding and achieving justice requires that we demand from all of us as citizens more civic time and energy.

The Greens must show the way here with new definitions and strategies.

Leadership means producing more leaders, not more followers.

ability to make a difference in this world.

By the People as a commonwealth...

But the people in this country still have assets that they own, but unfortunately do not control. I speak of the public airwaves, the public lands, the huge capital pools that comprise trillions of dollars in pensions, mutual insurance assets and other savings.

We the people own these enormous assets but corporations control their use and disposition from the broadcast industry to the mining and timber industries. Progressive politics means that what is legally owned by the people as a commonwealth must be controlled by them.

That means, first and foremost, that we must pay close attention to our civic duties in time, knowledge and determination. That is what self-reliance and grass roots mean for

The Greens must show the way here with new definitions and strategies. Leadership means producing more leaders, not more followers.

Unity and Diversity Holds True Today

A political movement means agreeing on core issues of fundamental democracy and not fracturing on demands for unanimity about remaining priorities. The old slogan — unity and diversity — holds true today. Together they build energy that builds democracy — the best mechanism yet devised for solving problems with justice in a society where everybody counts and everybody is respected and everybody is eager to assume the duties of citizen action writ large and writ small.

For where there is no community, there is crisis. The global corporations are on a collision course with American democracy, with community and

with sustainable economies and the well being of workers and consumers.

Plutocracy and oligarchy are making our government one OF the Exxons, BY the General Motors, and FOR the DuPonts.

Launch the Green Waves and Breezes

What of the future for the children — nearly 25 percent of whom live in poverty in our country — and future generations to come. What will THEY think of our generation if we do not launch the green waves and breezes of a resurgent democracy across this land.

May your decisions, motivations and objectives rise to the level of expectations held by hardworking California Greens who wish to forge a united endeavor to take on the two party duopoly that is demeaning and denigrating to the promise of our country and the performance of its people.

From this side of the country, I can assure you that the message will be communicated in many ways through many mediums that the time has come for progressives to restore and advance the great promise of our society and its benign contributions to the world.

Forward, Greens. Forward, America!

Thank you. ♦



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Thurston County Ralph Nader For President Campaign number is 352-5780.

Cut The Crap Brusque BroadSides Against Big Bucks (or "Election? What election?")

Greg Hohnholt

I received the results of the 1996 National Democratic Platform poll report in my mailbox recently; (yawn), yep, the vision sweepstakes are on, folks. And although it's stamped CONFIDENTIAL on the frontispiece, I don't think I'm giving anything away by sharing some of the contents with you. C'mon, Greg, you've got to be kidding! There's enough boring stuff in this edition of *Works in Progress* without you wholeheartedly trying to — anesthetize us! Hey, folks, go easy, eh? I feel your pain. But what the hell else am I supposed to write about? Filegate? Guru-gate? Travelgate? Tobaccogate? Robert Aldrich's *Unlimited Access*? Joe Klein a/k/a "Anonymous" and *Primary Colors*? The Republi-Cratic campaign conventions? (You've probably already forgotten about three quarters of these subjects by the time this edition hits the streets). There's so much crap out there that isn't really crap stinking up the media landscape that it makes better sense to carp (an anagram of crap, in case you hadn't no-

and may include information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication without the written permission....," etc., etc. I'll take my chances.

First off, let us note that the poll that was the basis for this report was chock full of leading questions and limited multiple choice answers to ensure that the DNC got responses favorable to their tripartite agenda (i.e. regaining control of the House, maybe the Senate, and reelecting Reagan II; uh, that is, um, Slick Wil... ahem, Bill Clinton.)

Second, as to how this poll is going to be used; allow me to quote directly: "A copy of this report is being sent under separate cover to the Platform Planning Committee;" (where it will be promptly thrown in the circular file. Then the *real* report, the one stamped with the logos of corporate America and Wall St., will be opened and studiously applied to fashioning the "planks" of the Dems' National Platform. A copy of the same report will be going to the GOP, albeit with minor revisions.)

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ticed) about something that absolutely no one is paying any attention to.

"Well, hell, if you wanted to write about something trivial, how about the "Families First" platform the Dems launched a few weeks ago. Some vision. That Tom Daschle is such a wuss.

Yeah, he may be a wuss, but at least he's got a brain. The other senator from South Dakota, Larry Pressler, once mistook a closet door for an exit during a Commerce Committee meeting and decided to stay inside until everybody left the room. But the other attendees saw him go in, and so they just waited until ol' Larry finally came crawling out.

"Now *that's* the kind of stuff we'd like to read, Greg! How 'bout more of that?"

What, and be classified as a vituperative, "hot talk" kind of guy, shamelessly spilling the vindictive ad homonym attacks so beloved by the conservative coffee clatch that this column seeks to discredit? Like mom (and now Joel Siegal) always says, "Two wrongs don't make you a right" (but three lefts do).

"OK, OK. So what's in the democratic platform?" (Yeah, I know you wouldn't say that, but hell, we have to get on with it.

Proceed with caution!

Before we begin, I have to warn you that I did not get permission from the DNC to reveal this highly classified info. Like it says on the front page: "The contents of this envelope are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed

No issues but one

"So Greg, does it make any sense to even bring up this platform, if it is, in fact, a superfluous charade calculated to make us, the working people of this country, believe that there is some kind of democratic process going on here? No, dear reader, it doesn't. Mr. Lewis Lapham, in the August issue of *Harper's* (which has just arrived in my mailbox), makes this fact terrifyingly clear in a lucid essay entitled "Lights, Camera, Democracy: On the conventions of a make-believe republic." It confirms what you must already suspect if the above quotes I am crediting to you are of any worth. You see, dear reader, unlike us poor proles, Mr. Lapham has access to the overclass that whether wittingly or not, make the decisions that constitute an invisible permanent government of big money, one that manipulates the provisional one we know and loathe in D.C. (district of calumny). And Mr. Lapham observes that these putative kingpins are nervous indeed; nervous that the offerings of the Dole/Clinton "face-off"

are just a wee bit too obviously cast from the same mold. More and more people are shouting that the emperor has no clothes, and as much as the overclass has been successful at muffling or discrediting these voices, a few more disruptions in the style of the Federal building in Oklahoma City or the Montana Freeman will eventually convince the moderates who, historically, are the last to be convinced: yes, it is true; the president, whether ass or elephant, is a mere figurehead for corporate interests around the globe.

A few examples...

- China receives Most Favored Nation status despite a \$34 billion trade deficit (it was \$13 billion five years ago). That comes to 800,000 -- 77 American jobs lost, under Clinton's formula of 20,000 jobs per billion dollars of deficit. Of course we need not mention the unheeded human rights abuses that Amnesty International continues to document. But we can't risk a trade war and hurt the corporate profit margins, now can we? (Thanks to Representative Linda Smith for the stats, and for voting against granting China MFN status.)

- Common Cause reports that the Florida-based U.S. Sugar got off the hook for paying for the Everglades restoration program that Dole has so loudly trumpeted as his baby. Florida sugar growers already receive an 18 cent a pound subsidy from the U.S. taxpayer, so that a two cent a pound assessment suggested by Senator Richard Lugar would have amounted to lowering this subsidy to 16 cents a pound. (Sugar growers deserve to pay for the restoration because the fertilizer-rich runoff they produce damages the delicate ecosystem in the Everglades.) Instead, corporate friendly Dole and Co. ensured that the sugar industry would not only keep receiving their subsidy, but that the cleanup bill would be taken out of the general fund in the

farm bill. As a result of all this government largesse, U.S. consumers are paying twice the world price for sugar.

- In light of Dole's recent fumbling about the addictiveness of tobacco, consider the \$2.3 million in soft money contributions that Philip Morris contributed to the GOP. Or, in light of Archer Daniels Midland ethanol subsidy (despite an EPA ruling that ethanol is a heavier polluter in the summer months than regular unleaded gasoline), consider the \$2.5 million that Dwayne Andreas and Co. have contributed to both parties. The ethanol



subsidy, which at 54 cents a gallon costs taxpayers about \$770 million a year, was blocked from being reduced by three cents by Dole and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman last summer.

- Or simply realize that from January 1993 through November 28, 1994, the Demo-publicans raked in a whopping \$83.3 billion in PAC money. And both of these "candidates" are not uttering a word about campaign finance reform?

This is not an election. This is not a democracy. It is, in reality, a carefully staged puppet show.

Important Note: The TV version of *Cut the Crap* debuts Friday, August 2nd at 9:00 PM on channel 3. Find someone who has cable and watch it (The second episode will debut August 16th) ♦

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Macedonia

A Search for Common Ground

As the first rays of sunrise filtered over the horizon, we flew into the rich Vardar valley, skirting the impressive snow-capped Sar Planin massif to arrive in Skopje early on an April morning. The new republic of Macedonia still slept as we landed at the tiny southern Balkan airport.

The new nation miraculously broke away from the self-destructive Yugoslavia in 1992 without violence or bloodshed, but not without tension. Testifying to this, US forces under UN command patrol the Macedonian borders to the north and west. Indeed the landlocked country of two million inhabitants is surrounded by neighbors who have all held long and antagonistic relationships with one another over this territory for ages.

Only this past April did the truncated Yugoslavia state officially recognize Macedonia. At this writing Greece still refuses to recognize the new nation unless Skopje changes the country's name. Athens believes Macedonia may have designs on territory within Greece which Macedonian nationalists see as part of the greater Macedonian nation.

Macedonia, which is about the size of Vermont, rivals any Balkan nation for its beauty with its pristine lakes, clean fast-flowing rivers, rich countryside and architectural memorials representing numerous past civilizations that once flourished here from the ancient Greeks and Romans, to the Byzantines and Ottomans.

The friendly, gracious people welcome foreigners and treat guests with unparalleled generosity. But somehow the generosity doesn't always extend to members of other religious or ethnic groups within the country's boundaries. Approximately 25 percent of Macedonians descend from Albanian ancestry and practice Islam. Much of this population feels greater attachment to Tirana than Skopje. Populations of Roma (gypsies), Vlach, Serbs and Turks also live in Macedonia. The predominant religion is Orthodox Christian.

Both domestic and international organizations are attempting today to address the multitude of issues stemming from Macedonia's transition from a one-party socialist republic that was part of the greater Yugoslavian state to a modern multi-party democracy and independent nation. The issues are comprehensive and complex. Any could threaten the fledgling country's future viability, such as resolving the international tensions on its borders, moving to a market economy, reversing environmental degradation, calming inter-ethnic misunderstanding, and securing human rights for all of its citizens.

One organization working in Macedonia today, Search for Common Ground (SCG), employs a unique approach to the current malaise. I found the SCG office in an austere four-story concrete building without an elevator off the busy city center around the corner from, of all things in the Balkans, a Mexican res-

taurant. Here I met Dr. Eran Fraenkel, the director of Macedonia's SCG office. With headquarters in Washington DC, SCG has projects in several other troubled spots including Burundi, Angola, and the Middle East.

Fraenkel's story in itself is most interesting. In his mid-forties with a silver gray hair and a high forehead, Fraenkel discovered the Balkans long ago as an avid folk dancer. He is not the first to be attracted by the passionate and sad love songs and epic stories of peasant life driven by the exotic and oriental instrumentation from the east. Born in Israel, he grew up in Pittsburgh and gained his Ph.D. in Balkan History from the University of Indiana. Fraenkel wrote his dissertation on Ottoman history in the region.

His love of Balkan music and history led him to become director of UCLA's Ethnomusicology Publications between 1987-1992. But Fraenkel's first love was always the Balkans. As Yugoslavia unraveled and the war in Bosnia developed and spread, Fraenkel worked with refu-

Since its establishment in Macedonia, SCG has worked in a number of areas attempting to bring Macedonians together. I recall my own experience in Cyprus just before the 1974 political upheavals in that Mediterranean island nation. Greeks did not speak with Turks and vice versa much less attempt to work with one another to face mutual problems. In the end Cyprus suffered a violent coup d'état, a Turkish invasion and a division by ethnic groups requiring a massive movement of populations in the country.

While Macedonia is no Cyprus, similar barriers to understanding seem to exist. SCG's approach is innovative and sound based on their work elsewhere in the world. The organization prioritized several areas in Macedonia to concentrate its limited resources (two staff only until recently when they have had added two additional staff) including conflict resolution education, cross-ethnic cooperation on the environment and communication skills. One project which most impressed me involved

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gees as a consultant.

"I was looking for a way to become meaningfully active in light of the Bosnian War," he explained. Fluent in both Albanian and Macedonian, he felt he could contribute more.

Fraenkel came to the SCG Skopje office as the successor of founding director, Bob Frowick, a OSCE mission director in Skopje, in September 1994. In explaining SCG's role in Macedonia, Fraenkel noted: "We want to aid in the growth of the Macedonian society through fostering direct experience of Macedonians of all religious or ethnic groups working with each other on common challenges. We want to establish the foundation for long-term bridge building."

SCG's work with Macedonian journalists.

For the previous 50 years under a closed society, Macedonian journalists like many journalists in the former eastern block nations were stifled. According to Fraenkel, "Under the old system, Macedonian journalists acted to inform its citizens of the official line, relying upon governmental or party officials for the 'news.' Now they want to learn about modern journalism. Professional journalism today is one of education through investigative reporting and critical analysis."

To build the bridges to improve Macedonian journalism as well as develop cross ethnic group cooperation,

SCG helped to coordinate with others a series of workshops and conferences to bring journalists from the different groups together for professional training. The success of this led SCG to receive commitments from editors of leading ethnic newspapers to undertake a special project unheard of in Macedonia to date: joint ethnic coverage, reporting and analysis of a series of issues common to all ethnic groups.

The team included reporters from *Nova Makedonia* (Macedonian-language daily), *Flaka e Vallazermi* (Albanian-language daily), *Birlik* (Turkish-language thrice-weekly) and Radio NoMa (Macedonian-language radio station). With the cooperation of the Center for War, Peace and the News Media of New York University, SCG brought in a *Los Angeles Times* feature writer, Denise Hamilton, to help coordinate the project and provide training on contemporary journalism to the participants.

Last summer, the reporters launched the effort. They concentrated on issues important for every community involving the impacts of the deteriorating Macedonian economy on the people. According to Hamilton's report, the Macedonian reporters at first had difficulty interviewing the proverbial person on the street. But in the end success was achieved in teams of two. Each team interviewed people from various ethnic groups about their perceptions on the economy.

The one-month project culminated in a series of articles in each publication exposing their ethnic-oriented readership to how other groups experienced similar problems.

"We had to start gingerly and humbly to build up trust," observed Fraenkel.

At the end of April, SCG had just completed a second project coordinated by Richard Martens from the Center for Foreign Journalists, through a Knight Reader fellowship. This included four articles on Macedonia health care and how it affects all citizens.

"We hope that the individuals involved will come away from the exposure with a different view of their craft," said Fraenkel.

Just before I left the country, Macedonian television featured another SCG project. In the "Adopt a Monument Project," SCG brought together mixed ethnic teams of Macedonian youngsters to pick up litter which lies unintended around various historical sites due to limited resources for local clean up. Labeled Eco-patrols, the students will continue to monitor these areas for litter. The project will also involve broadcasting of anti-litter public service announcements, produced in cooperation with a local organization, which will emphasize that environmental problems are everyone's concerns and everyone must work together, cooperatively, to solve them.

A number of non-governmental organizations sponsored by United States and other international groups operate in a similar fashion to SCG in Macedonia. Their efforts may seem humble, as Eran Fraenkel noted, but the alternative — no action — may have far more serious implications in the long run. ♦



photo by Tara Verdonk

What Forest Health Crisis?

Natalie Shapiro

Environmental activists have discovered that the "forest health crisis" is a big lie. According to information received from a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request in April, several national forests in Idaho can produce no evidence that a forest health crisis exists.

As a representative of Friends of the Clearwater, an Idaho-based environmental group, and The Ecology Center, Inc., a Montana-based group, I conducted the FOIA request, asking for two points: (1) evidence that insects, diseases, dead and downed trees are outside the Natural Range of Variation (NRV); that is that there is an epidemic, and (2) that there is a backlog of salvage timber.

These two points are taken rights out of the Salvage Rider (PL104-19). The purpose of the Rider was to alleviate a supposed forest health crisis in the National Forests, and to reduce a backlog of salvage timber (which is why the appeals process was removed; to hasten through the timber sale process). Therefore, one should expect the Forests to have evidence of an epidemic and backlog of salvage timber, right? Well...

The response from the Clearwater National Forest (CNF) was "there are no existing documents in our files that indicate that dead, damaged, and diseased trees are outside the natural range of variation. There are no documents that provide evidence that this is an epidemic, rather than endemic." They also replied that there were no documents to provide evidence of a backlog of salvage timber on the CNF.

Examining this in the context of the Rider itself is revealing: Section 2001(a) Definitions states in part (3) that a salvage timber sale includes the removal of trees lacking the characteristics of a healthy and viable ecosystem for the purpose of ecosystem improvement or rehabilitation. But, there is no need to improve or rehabilitate the ecosystem, as the CNF has shown.

Further Section 2001(b)(1) states that the salvage timber sale volume level must reduce the backlog of salvage timber. As there is no evidence of backlog salvage timber on the Forest, this provision is also being violated.

Why is the Clearwater breaking the law? Could it be because this Forest is projecting 105 million board feet (mmbf) of salvage timber through the end of this year, significantly higher than normal?

The Panhandle NF sent several reports on forest health, many which discussed forest health in terms of "productivity" of "board feet." The fact that the current level of insects and diseases and wildfire may be part of a normal cycle that is measured in hundreds or thousands of years is ignored. The reports typically begin assessing current forest health since the mid 1980s, or at the earliest, the mid-1950s. Forests take hundreds or thousands of years to go through the

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Other Forests' responses were also revealing. The Nez Perce NF responded that they have not conducted a forest-wide determination of the natural range of variation for insects and diseases. In addition, their timber sale planner said that insect populations are below normal.

The Boise National Forest provided only a report on a model to determine the risk of forests to wildfire. Ironically, that report concluded that the causes of forest sickness are logging, grazing and fire suppression. The agency cure: more logging, grazing and fire suppression. Of all the forests in Idaho, the Boise is planning the highest number of salvage timber volume: 288 mmbf — one third of the total volume of salvage timber for Idaho forests, which is 762 mmbf.

succession of trees that lead to climax species. How can a scientific assessment only examine the past 10 or 40 years to determine if forest health is normal or not?

The result of the FOIAs coincide with Idaho Senator Larry Craig's Forest Health Bill, which would make the salvage rider permanent. Activists in Washington DC circulated the Clearwater National Forest FOIA to members of Congress as part of extensive evidence that Craig's bill is based on non-existent information.

Natalie Shapiro works for Friends of the Clearwater, The Ecology Center, Inc., and the Cove/Mallard Coalition. She has been involved in environmental issues for seven years, most recently in Forest Watch issues. ♦

"What the world needs now is love, sweet love."

George Riffero

These are some of the words in a song that was written some years ago. The words were important then-but they are even more important now. With millions of people unemployed and living in abject poverty and suffering—"land of plenty." Why does this situation exist?

If there is enough of everything for all of us, the problem must lie in the distribution of these things. Some people take far more than they need while others have nothing. Obviously, for some people, it is better to take than to give or share with others. The word for this is *greed*.

In a materialistic society where a person's value is based primarily on how much wealth he has or how much he earns, rather than on his spiritual or humanitarian contributions to his fellow man, it is difficult for many people to share with others. A little generosity during the holidays or on a few special occasions is not enough. It merely serves to salve the conscience of some people. What we need is sharing with and caring for others every day of the year—not just on special occasions.

If we are honest about it, we have to admit that there is enough money, food, housing, and other necessities of life for all of us. So, why is it necessary for some of us to live in poverty while others live in affluence? Is it because some of us are lazy, stupid, wasteful, "good for nothing bums," that we live in poverty? Is it that we prefer to take a "handout" rather than to work for what we get? Or is it the system that we live in that causes the problem?

If you are a person who is not satisfied with things as they are, you can do something to make the necessary changes. Perhaps, somebody told you that you "can't fight city hall." Don't believe it! You can make your society what you want it to be. But, you won't make changes if you are apathetic. You will have to become well informed on issues, set goals to accomplish, and become active.

Every person is important. You are just as important as David Rockefeller, Ronald Reagan, or anyone else—or are you? What you say and do will answer that question. ♦

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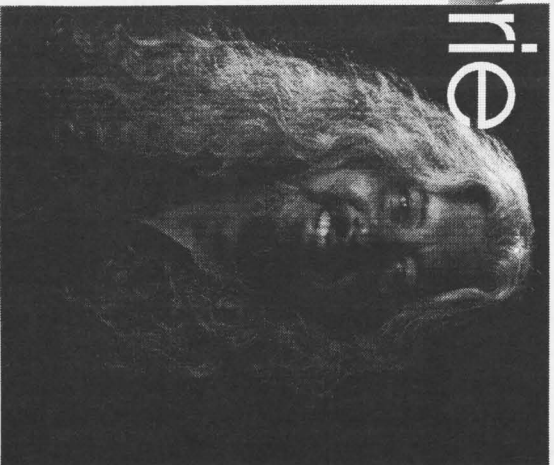


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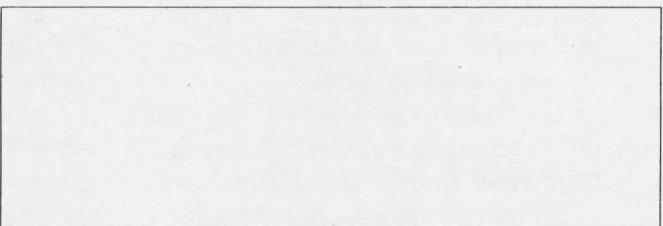
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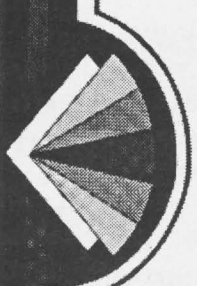
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